

CLAIMS:

1. A container for storing liquid and/or dispensing liquid therefrom, in use, the container having a body with an inlet for the entry of liquid thereinto and an outlet for dispensing liquid therefrom, and a valve associated with the outlet to control the flow of liquid therethrough, the valve having a movable valve member, movement of which is controlled by an actuator operable at the exterior of the body, the body defining a sealed enclosure when the inlet is closed and said actuator is in its non-operative position.
2. A container as claimed in Claim 1, wherein in said non-operative position, the actuator seals with the body.
3. A container as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the actuator seals with a housing which is itself sealingly attached to the body at an opening in a wall thereof.
4. A container as claimed in Claim 3, wherein in its operative state the actuator is positioned relative to said housing to vent the container.
5. A container as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said venting is provided by one or more grooves in said actuator allowing air flow past a part of the housing with which the actuator seals in its non-operative position.
6. A container as claimed in Claim 5, wherein vented air flows from the housing into the interior of the body through an opening in the housing.

- 22 -

7. A container as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said opening is disposed so that liquid drains therefrom as the level of liquid in said body falls.
8. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 3 to 7, wherein the housing contains biasing means to bias the actuator to its non-operative position.
9. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 3 to 8, wherein a flange surrounds said opening in the wall of the body and a closure member is removably engagable with said flange to prevent inadvertent operation of said actuation, in use.
10. A container as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the flange has at least one opening therein to allow venting of the container even if an open outer end of the flange is covered whilst the actuator is in its operative state.
11. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the valve member seals with a valve seat at said outlet when the actuator is in its non-operative position.
12. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said inlet is provided by a hollow boss extending from a part of the body which is uppermost, in use, the boss being sealed against outflow of liquid therethrough by a closure member releasably engagable with the boss.
13. A container as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the closure member is a cap screw-threadedly engagable with the boss.

- 23 -

14. A container as claimed in Claim 9 or Claim 13, wherein the closure member is secured to the body by a strap.
15. A container for storing liquid and/or dispensing liquid therefrom, in use, the container comprising a body with an inlet for the entry of liquid thereinto and an outlet for dispensing liquid therefrom, a dispensing spout non-removably attached to the body at said outlet, and a valve associated with said outlet to control the flow of liquid therethrough into said spout, the valve having a movable valve member, movement of which is controlled by an actuator operable at the exterior of the body.
16. A container as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the dispensing spout at one of its ends is screw-threadedly engaged with said body.
17. A container as claimed in Claim 16, wherein locking means are provided between the spout and said body to lock the spout non-removably to the body.
18. A container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said locking is arranged to occur when said end of the spout is fully screw-threadedly engaged with the body.
19. A container as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the locking means are ramp-like projections on each of the spout and the body, the projections on the spout riding over the projections on the body, on assembly, when the spout is fully screwed onto the body in one direction, but thereafter being

- 24 -

prevented from movement in the opposite direction, thereby to effect said locking.

20. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 16 to 19, wherein the screw-threads of the body which are complementary to the screw-threads of the spout are provided on the exterior of a boss of the body arranged around said outlet.

21. A container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein when the spout is fully engaged with said body, an annular sealing ring of said spout engages in a complementary annular groove in an outer end surface of said boss.

22. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 21, wherein the body is provided with a channel into which a part of the spout remote from its attachment to the body can be received in its stored or non-operative state.

23. A container as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said spout is attached to the body at a front part thereof, said channel is provided at a part of the body which is uppermost, in use, and said spout is flexible to allow it to be moved to receive said part thereof in said channel.

24. A container as claimed in Claim 22 or Claim 23, wherein the part of said spout in said channel is releasably locked therein.

25. A container as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the locking of said part of the spout is by way of the interengagement of one of a rib and groove on the spout and the other on the channel, or vice versa.

- 25 -

26. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 25, wherein an open end of the spout can be releasably sealed by a closure member.

27. A container as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the closure member is attached to the body by a strap.

28. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 21, wherein the spout is collapsible and can be received in said body in a non-operative state.

29. A container as claimed in Claim 28, wherein an outer open end of the spout is formed with a plurality of teeth and a closure member releasably engagable at or on said end of the spout in its collapsed state has an interior projection to engage the teeth so as to effect extension of the spout if the engagement of said closure member is released and the member is pulled away from said body.

30. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which said body is of one-piece construction.

31. A container as claimed in Claim 30, in which the body is of plastics material and formed by blow moulding.

32. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 30, wherein the body is formed of an inner part and an outer part secured thereto, the outer part defining at least one handle.

- 26 -

33. A container as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the outer body part extends centrally longitudinally of said inner part of the body over at least a front part and a top part of the inner body.

34. A container as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the outer body part extends over the front, rear and top parts of the inner body, with rear and top handles being defined in rear and top parts respectively of the outer body.

35. A container as claimed in Claim 33 or Claim 34, wherein the inlet opening is offset relative to said longitudinal centrally extending outer body part and thus to the combination of said actuator and valve which are disposed centrally longitudinally of the body.

36. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 15 to 21, wherein the body is formed of an inner part and an outer part secured thereto, the outer part extending across a top part of the inner body part and defining a storage location for part of the spout when it is in a non-operative state.

37. A container as claimed in Claim 36, wherein in its storage location the spout part is releasably locked in place.

38. A pair of containers as claimed in any one of the preceding claims joined together side-by-side.

39. A pair of containers as claimed in Claim 38, where the joining is integral.

- 27 -

40. A pair of containers as claimed in Claim 38, where the joining is non-integral.